

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 19 are amended and claims 5-18 and 20 are cancelled. Thus, claims 1-4 and 19 are pending in the current Application. In light of at least the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Kurr and Chin at the interview held May 23, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action makes the restriction requirement final and withdraws claims 5-18 and 20 from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 5-18 and 20 are cancelled.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,889,870 to Norris (hereafter "Norris '870"). The Office Action further rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norris '870 in view of U.S. Patent 6,850,623 to Norris (hereafter "Norris '623").

As discussed during the personal interview, Norris '623 appears only to disclose a calibration of the transducers by shifting the frequency of the carrier wave so that phase differences between the hypersonic signals produced by the different transducers can be minimized (col. 4, lines 21-44) so as to avoid loss of amplitude due to destructive interference (col. 4, lines 45-58).

As agreed at the May 23 personal interview, Norris '870 does not disclose adjusting the phase relationships between signals and Norris '623, applied in the rejection of claim 2, does not disclose adjusting the phase relationships of signals in order to actively control the focus of a hypersonic beam. Examiners Kurr and Chin agreed that if language directed to

actively adjusting the phase relationships between signals is included in the claims, the claims would distinguish over the prior art of record.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 19 are amended to include a feature of adjusting the phase relationships between signals as similarly recited originally in claim 2. Further, claims 1 and 19 are amended to recite actively adjusting the phase relationships between signals to focus a hypersonic beam. Thus, as agreed at the personal interview, claims 1, 19, and their dependent claims distinguish over both Norris '870 and Norris '623. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 and 19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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